

RESOLUTION NO. ____ (CM)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE EXPRESSING ITS SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN DREAM AND PROMISE ACT OF 2021 – H.R.6 AND URGING ACTION FROM THE 117TH UNITED STATES CONGRESS

WHEREAS, the status of Dreamers has been a top political issue in immigration in recent years. In his first few weeks in office, President Joe Biden issued a series of executive actions related to immigration, including sending to Congress legislation that creates a pathway to citizenship for the nearly 11 million undocumented immigrants living and contributing to our country; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2021, the Dream and Promise Act was introduced in Congress by Representatives Roybal-Allard, Velazquez, and Clarke to provide a path to citizenship for more than three million undocumented immigrant youth known as “Dreamers,” who are largely protected under former President Obama’s 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, as well as individuals with Temporary Protective Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED); and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2021, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the American Dream and Promise Act of 2021 by a bipartisan vote of 228 to 197, and goes to the Senate next for consideration; and

WHEREAS, if the American Dream and Promise Act becomes law, it would allow recipients of the DACA program (individuals born in another country who came to the United States as children) and other undocumented foreign nationals, the opportunity to apply for a ten-year permanent residence status, provided they meet several

requirements. To be eligible, recipients must meet certain educational, military service, or employment thresholds; and

WHEREAS, the Act would also create a pathway to permanent residence for as many as 300,000 individuals holding Temporary Protected Status or Deferred Enforced Departure, along with the provisions above, it would also allow certain children of U.S. work visa holders who are awaiting their green cards to gain permanent resident status; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. is home to nearly 700,000 DACA recipients who have lived under a cloud of uncertainty for years. DACA recipients contribute to billions in annual economic growth and federal, state, and local taxes, and play critical roles in the U.S. workforce, as employees, businessowners, and consumers; and

WHEREAS, nearly one-third of all DACA recipients are helping combat COVID-19 on the front lines as essential workers; and

WHEREAS, nearly one-third of the nation's Dreamers live in California, where they have earned college degrees and found employment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the City Council of the City of Watsonville strongly supports H.R.6 – The American Dream and Promise Act of 2021 and urges action from the 117th United States Congress.

2. That the City Clerk is hereby directed to transmit copies of this resolution to President Joseph R Biden Jr., Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla, and Congressman Jimmy Panetta.
